

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated February 10, 2004, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by May 10, 2004.

Claims 11-12 and 15-20 are pending in this application.

First, the Applicant wishes to point out that a Simultaneous Amendment was filed January 7, 2002, in which original claims 1-10 were canceled and a set of 10 new claims were added, incorrectly numbered as claims 1-10. The pending claims have therefore been renumbered as claims 11-20.

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to for various informalities. Claim 5 (claim 15) was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 1 (claim 11) stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,428,997 to Rickett or JP 61-110,652 ("JP '652"). Claims 1 and 10 (claims 11 and 20) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 00/0511. Claim 1 (claim 11) was further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by SP 5,893,193 to Nagy. Claims 2-3 and 10 (claims 12 and 13 and 20) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagy as applied to claim 1 (claim 11) and further in view of WO 00/05111.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 4-9 (14-19).

In view of the allowance of these claims, claim 11 has been amended to add the features of allowed claim 14 and intervening claim 13, which have been canceled. Allowed claims 15, 17, and 19 have been rewritten in independent form.

Also in the present amendment, the specification was amended to add standard section headings, to delete reference to the claims, and to amend the abstract.

Therefore, claims 11-12 and 15-20 are allowable over the cited art.

In light of the foregoing amendments in support of patentability, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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